Doubletalk

Tom

Vol. 1, No. 4 The newsletter of The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker March 1988

John Higginson as Lord Alfred Douglas and Tom Baker as Oscar Wilde in a scene from Act I, Wilde vs. Queensberry, taken during the May 20, 1981, premiere of *Feasting with Panthers* at Chichester Festival Theatre. (Photo obtained from the Chichester Festival Theatre Press Office, with the assistance of Mari Wallace.)

BRITISH THEATRE-GOERS TO BENEFIT FROM TOM'S YEARS OF AMERICAN RESEARCH!

Club member Colleen Crouch recently received the following news from Tom:

"In spite of my firm resolution not to do another play for a year, I've fallen for a script, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* by John Bishop. It's an American play, 1986/7, and has been done on Broadway (not a great success) and was much admired by Peter Farago, who will direct the British premiere. We start work February 23rd and open about four weeks later at Greenwich Theatre. If it's any good, we'll transfer to the West End after six weeks. I'm daunted to play an American. Why I'm daunted, I don't know--after all, I've met some very odd ones!"

So far we know very little more about the play. According to London Management, it will run at the Greenwich Theatre (outer London) from March 28th until April 30th or May 7th.

WHERE TO WRITE TO TOM

Tom receives so much mail that it must be handled by his agent's office. We print their address because it's the only one available, but please understand we can't guarantee that your mail will reach Tom or that you will receive an acknowledgment. The address is: London Management, 235/241 Regent Street, London W1A 2JT, U.K.

PEN-PAL SERVICE

We've received very few responses to last issue's announcement about our new pen-pal service. The service is being coordinated by member Kathy Starnes, so if you're interested please write directly to her at 1301 Baker Dr., Oak Harbor, WA 98277. Send her a few sentences describing yourself and your interests, and enclose an SASE. If we don't receive more requests soon, we may decide to discontinue the service.

WE ARE NOT ALONE . . .

We've been asked to mention Tom's British-based fan club, The Tom Baker Friendship Group. Their quarterly newsletter contains 3-4 pages of news, information, play/TV reviews, art, photos, pen-pal and swaps/wants columns. U.K. subscriptions cost £5; overseas subscriptions (including U.S.) cost $15 or £8.52. Contact:

The Tom Baker Friendship Group
c/o Gwyneth Bland
1st Floor Flat
71 Woodthorpe Road
Ashford, Middlesex TW15 3JT
U.K.

THE BOY WHO FORGOT TO . . . ER . . . WEAR HIS WELLIES IN THE HOUSE?

The two books Tom compiled for Sparrow Books are no longer in print, and we've been told that there are no plans to reprint them. For the benefit of those of you who will not be able to obtain copies of these books, club member Katherine Clark suggested that we reprint the poem and limerick which Tom wrote. We've received Tom's permission to do so, so here they are!

From *The Boy Who Forgot to Grow Down* (1984), a book of limericks compiled by Tom Baker, with royalties benefitting "Help a Child to See":

The boy who forgot to grown down
Grew up on the far side of town;
By the time he was seven
He was six-foot-eleven
A figure of highest renown.

From *Never Wear Your Wellies in the House* (1981), a collection of poems compiled by Tom Baker, with royalties benefitting the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults:

Never Wear Your Wellies in the House

If you want to be as silent as a mouse,
Or jump as high as any little house,
You must nibble lots of cheese,
Say "Hello" to passing fleas
And never wear your wellies in the house.

Stick your neck out just as far as a giraffe,
Be eccentric and you'll make the others laugh
But except when you're alone
When of course you'll feel at home
You should never wear your knickers in the bath.

If you don't want to lie awake in fear and dread,
Or have nightmares all in horrid shades of red,
Nor have crumbs just everywhere,
Twixt your toes and in your hair,
You must never take a currant bun to bed.

If you want to be as silent as a mouse,
Or jump as high as any little house,
You must nibble lots of cheese,
Say "Hello" to passing fleas
And *never* wear your wellies in the house.

THE FRIENDS OF TOM AND COLIN BAKER • P.O. Box 8363 • Stanford, California 94309

Coordinator/Editor: Laurie Yadon

For membership dues of $10/year ($15/year overseas airmail) each member receives four issues of our quarterly newsletter, *DOUBLETALK*. Renewals are due by the last day of the month/year on your mailing label. Unless otherwise noted, checks/money orders for all memberships and merchandise should be payable to The Friends of Tom and Colin Baker (or simply "FTCB"). When writing to request information, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Grounds for termination of membership include (but are not limited to) nonpayment of dues, conduct which might tend to misrepresent the club, unauthorized use of the club name, and unauthorized reproduction of club materials. All material in the newsletter is copyright to the author/artist and copyright reverts upon publication.

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BACK ISSUES are available for $1.50 each, including postage. All issues are available; if original copies are out of stock we'll send photocopies. *AMONG FRIENDS* (newsletter of The Friends of Tom Baker): Vol. 1 #1 (9/83), #2 (12/83), #3 (3/84), #4 (6/84); Vol. 2 #1 (9/84), #2 (12/84), #3 (3/85), #4 (6/85); Vol. 3 #1 (9/85), #2 (12/85), #3 (3/86), #4 (6/86); Vol. 4 #1 (9/86), #2 (12/86), #3 (3/87). *DOUBLETALK*: Vol. 1 #1 (6/87), #2 (9/87), #3 (12/87).

TEA WITH TOM

The following material, including the photograph at right, is reprinted from a column written by Victor Blackman which appeared in the January 16th issue of *Camera Weekly*.

It was the sumptuous occasion of the presentation of the **CW** *Camera of the Year Awards* at London's Savoy Hotel, just before Christmas.

As a suave and impeccably dressed Tom Baker (famed for his role of 'Dr Who' and a star of the RSC) delivered a speech preceding the toast, my mind went back to the first time we'd met, 14 years ago. He was a little different then.

There had been a BBC press photocall to announce that Tom Baker (who was unknown at the time) would be the next Dr Who. After we of the press had taken pictures of him with the rest of the cast, I sent my films back to the *Express* by despatch rider and joined Tom for a drink in the BBC Club at TV Centre. Just the two of us.

While chatting, Tom mentioned that the part of Dr Who had come at just the right time in his career.

'I've not had any acting work lately, so for a few months I've been working as a builder's labourer. You know, hod-carrying and making tea for the lads, that sort of thing,' he said.

The rest of the press had gone, but I had stayed, following the advice given me by my first picture editor: 'Whenever you can, wait until everything is over. *And then wait a bit longer.*'

That has paid off on many occasions, and it did then.

'Mind if I come along to the site and shoot some pictures of you with the lads?' I asked.

Which is how I came to get an exclusive half-page in the *Express* of Dr Who in his real job at the time--a brickie's mate!

At the **CW** awards, Tom and I chatted about it, and he told me mine had been among his favourite pictures of himself.

'When you sent me some copies for the lads it put me right in favour with them,' he said. 'They voted me the best tea-maker they'd ever had!'

'You know,' he told me over the Savoy lunch, 'those were among the happiest times I've had. Those brickies were such a friendly bunch.'

I believe him. But he could hardly afford a decent hat in those days, never mind the Leica R4 and Leitz Focomat enlarger he now uses!

This shot of Tom Baker, centre, shows the value of waiting around, and thinking on your feet, at a photocall

PINPOINTING THOSE PESKY PESCATONS . . .

We've heard that some of you have been unable to locate copies of the audio cassette *Doctor Who and the Pescatons*--at a reasonable price, anyway! Member Kathy Starnes recently sent us a copy of Simon & Schuster's audio cassette catalog, and the *Pescatons* tape is included among their offerings. It's listed as their tape #5128 and is priced at $8.95 plus $2.95 (per order) for postage and handling, plus sales tax for residents of N.Y. and Iowa. Their address is: Simon & Schuster, Inc., P.O. Box 10212, Des Moines, Iowa 50381. To place a credit card order (VISA/MC) call 800-678-2677 toll free, Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Not only did Tom portray the Doctor in this 1975 recording, Kathy reports that in *Doctor Who Bulletin* #39 Victor Pemberton is quoted as having said that it was actually co-written by Tom!

FOR THE ARCHIVES

In our June 1987 issue we printed several reviews of *An Inspector Calls*. The following material has been excerpted from two additional reviews that were sent to us by member Patricia Loftin.

"Tom Baker's performance as the police inspector has an impressive authority and stillness. For much of the time he is content to sit silently and let the family babble on, but he has a slow, toothy grin that offers all the reassurance of a shark's and he raises the volume and the emotional temperature at all the key moments." [*London Daily News*, May 14, 1987]

"Tom Baker...is well cast as the mysterious figure who 'inspects' this self-satisfied lot and finds them wanting. He is not only an actor of great subtlety, but he, like the inspector, has a coaxing manner which always makes a compelling presence. Here his performance has just the right hint of enigma to intrigue." [*Daily Express*, May 15, 1987]

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES FOLLOW ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING MOVIE DOCTOR

Mary Whitehouse, so outspoken over the years with respect to the supposedly excessive amount of violence in *Doctor Who*, once again raised a cry of alarm after Coast to Coast Productions revealed that Arnold Schwarzenegger would play the Doctor in the long-awaited *Doctor Who* film.

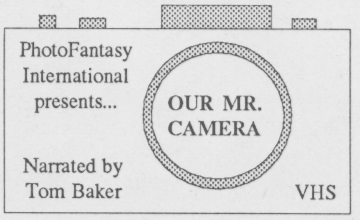
"We do not want to see *Doctor Who* turned into *Commando Doctor*!", Mrs. Whitehouse was quoted in *The Sun*. Schwarzenegger has only commented that when Mrs. Whitehouse confronted him he told her, "Let's party."

Mrs. Whitehouse has not been seen since that encounter, raising speculation about possible intervention by rabid fans or one of the Doctors. When questioned by the press Tom Baker replied, "Maybe a Swampie got her," and flashed one of his famous shark-like grins. Whatever the true story may be, one thing is certain--she won't be missed by millions of Doctor Who fans around the world!

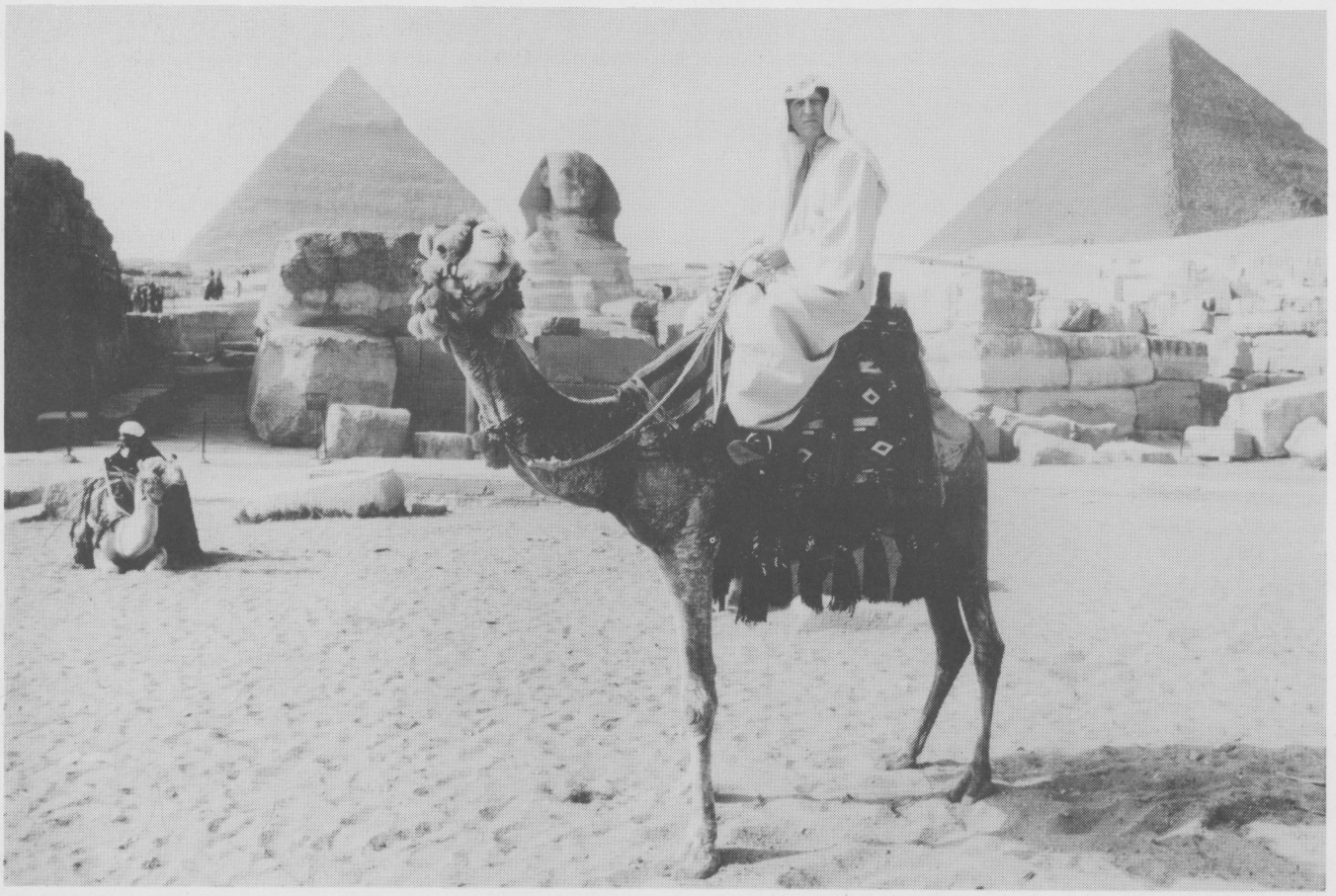
IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Things have been a bit dull lately at club headquarters; Madame Coordinator has been sitting around twiddling her thumbs for lack of things to do. It's been a year since the club was expanded to include Colin, and it seems high time for another change....

While this isn't a *Doctor Who* club per se, it does honor two of the actors who have played the Doctor--numbers 4 and 6, to be exact. In view of the preceding article, we feel it's the natural [mathematical] progression of things to add the next even-numbered Doctor--#8--to our roster, so effective April 1 this club will henceforth be known as Baker, Baker & Schwarzenegger.



PhotoFantasy International has recently announced plans to produce a videotape on photographic techniques which will be narrated by camera enthusiast Tom Baker. When interviewed about the upcoming project, Tom remarked, "It will be quite a challenge in the sense that I will have to explain all about f–stops, ASAs, and lens filters--things I'm not entirely sure I understand myself!" Tom went on to explain that he will really get into the subject. "Scientific techniques have recently been perfected which will allow me to be cloned in miniature form, small enough to be able to conduct a guided tour inside my own Leica R4!" The proposed title of the tape is *Our Mr. Camera*, and an April 1989 release is anticipated.



This photo was taken as part of a promotional campaign to advertise the opening of England's newest tourist attraction, Bits o' Britain, a theme park depicting territories which were once part of the British Empire. Tom donned native garb to help promote the Egyptian section of the park, which also includes areas representing India and Australia and is scheduled to open on April 1. (Photo courtesy of the *TV Times*, obtained with the assistance of member Joanne Walsh.)

Doubletalk

Colin

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OUR FAVORITE GAY MURDERER STRIKES AGAIN!

On February 15th Colin began rehearsing a new production of Ira Levin's play, *Deathtrap*. It opened in Birmingham on February 29th and is scheduled to tour Britain until mid-June.

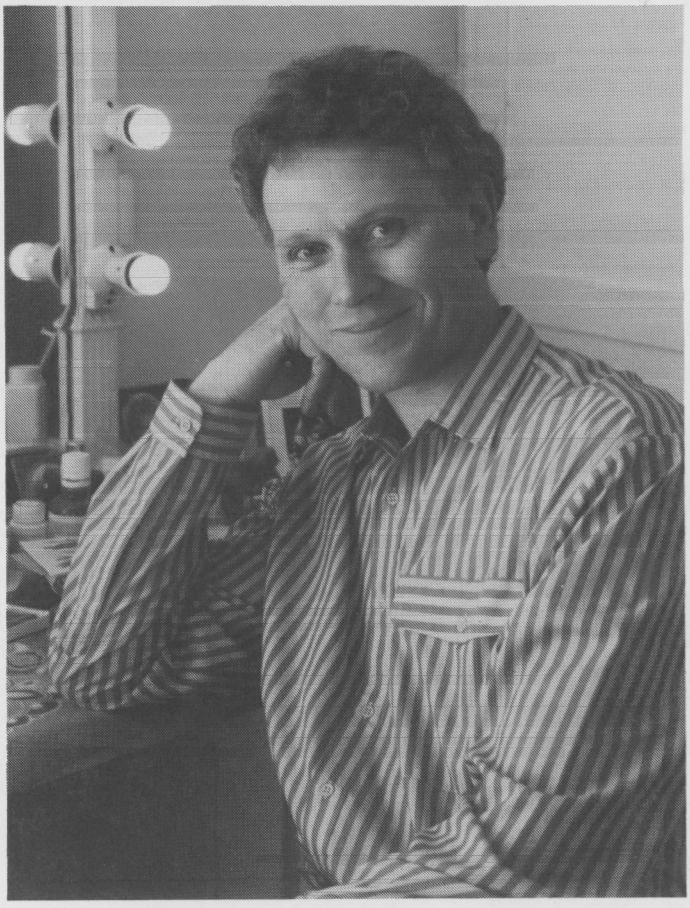
As many of you will know, Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve starred in the 1982 film based on this play. Colin is playing the character Michael Caine played in the film, a once-successful playwright named Sidney Bruhl who is desperate to have another hit play. Sidney is also, notably, the second gay murderer Colin has played during the past year! The play is set in Connecticut and most of the characters are American, so Colin is attempting to perfect an American accent.

Also appearing in this production are Anita Harris as Myra Bruhl, Sidney's wife; Simon Warwick as Clifford Anderson (Christopher Reeve's role in the film); Brenda Longman as Helga ten Dorp, the psychic neighbor; and Chris Winnera as Porter Milgrim, Sidney's attorney.

Colin says the two reviews they've received so far were "appalling," but he says the play is going extremely well in the sense that the audiences are very obviously enjoying it. (We're sure the poor reviews are completely unrelated to the fact that as of a week before the play opened Colin claimed to know *none* of his lines!)

Here is the touring schedule for the play:

2/29 - 3/5	Birmingham (Alexandra Theatre)
3/7 - 3/12	York (Theatre Royal)
3/14 - 3/19	Cambridge (Arts Theatre)
3/21 - 3/26	Eastbourne (Devonshire Park Theatre) [Colin will perform only 3/21 - 3/23; his understudy will take over for the rest of the week, while Colin attends Magnum Opus Con 3 in Columbus, Georgia, 3/25 - 3/27.]
3/28 - 4/2	Lincoln (Theatre Royal)
4/4 - 4/16	(unbooked)
4/18 - 4/23	Wimbledon (Wimbledon Theatre)
4/25 - 4/30	Peterborough (Key Theatre)
5/2 - 5/7	Warwick (Univ. of Warwick, in Coventry)
5/10 - 5/14	Buxton (Playhouse Theatre)
5/16 - 5/21	Croydon (Ashcroft Theatre)
5/23 - 5/28	Swindon (Wyvern Theatre)
5/30 - 6/4	Bromley (Churchill Theatre)
6/6 - 6/11	Brighton (Theatre Royal)
6/13 - 6/18	Bath (Theatre Royal)



This photo was taken in Colin's dressing room toward the end of the West End run of *Corpse!* Our thanks to the photographer, Tim Wearing of Petersfield, England, for allowing to us print it.

IT'S A GIRL!!!

On February 21st, about two weeks later than expected, Lucy got the little sister she wanted! Belinda Jane Baker arrived at 3:14 p.m. and weighed in at 7 pounds, 6-1/2 ounces. Colin reported that after the birth Marion was fine but tired -- which seems quite understandable, since she not only endured six hours of labor in the usual sense but spent part of that time helping Colin learn his lines for *Deathtrap*!

Colin says that Belinda was wide-awake and alert right away and that she's rather cute, but he admits to possibly being somewhat prejudiced regarding the latter. Her hair seems to be sort of blondish-ginger and -- ahem -- slightly curly! *The Birmingham Daily News* quoted Colin as saying, "Belinda is beautiful--although she looks a lot like Winston Churchill! But then, all babies do." Congratulations, Colin and Marion!!

SHOPPE TALK

Dear Friends,

Isn't it amazing how quickly time passes? I've just realized (I think it was changing the date on the two mastheads that did it) that this is the fourth newsletter I've published since TFOTB "regenerated" into FTCB. After working with Colin for a year, all I can say is that if I'd known how much fun it would be I would probably have expanded the club a lot sooner!

This column will be quite short this time because for a change I have very little to say. I do want to issue a brief word of warning, however, to those of you who weren't members of the club at this time last year--namely, that at this time of year one shouldn't believe everything one reads, even in this hallowed publication....

Thanks to all who helped with this issue. I won't mention names this time--you know who you are, and it's probably just as well that no one else does!

Till next time, all take care.

Laurie

CONVENTION CHATTER

Colin isn't confirmed to attend any U.S. conventions after Magnum Opus Con in March; however, Tardiscon in St. Louis (August 12-14) is a possibility, subject to professional commitments. (When Colin was working on *Doctor Who* he knew well ahead of time what his schedule would be and so was often able to confirm convention appearances months in advance. Since then, however, in order to avoid possible conflicts with work he has not been able to confirm as early.)

If you would like more information about Tardiscon, send an SASE to: Tardiscon '88, P.O. Box 733, St. Louis, MO 63118.

COLIN'S MAILBAG

Q: *How did you and Marion meet? Were you working on a show together? Have you ever worked together professionally? How long have you been married? -- Lydia Pickle [Phoenix, Arizona]*

A: In February 1981 I was asked to do a play called *Private Lives* by Noel Coward, to tour Scandinavia. Marion was playing Sybil and I played Elyot, and we rehearsed in Guildford, about 30 miles outside London. The first time I saw her was in a kitchen of a theatre; I came in with Cleo, my red setter, and Marion bent down and patted her. Cleo was my boon companion for many years, and the fact that Cleo took to her so warmly on first meeting was sufficient for me. Marion had a streaming cold at the time and was wearing a knitted pink cloche hat, and looked a bit of a wreck, really, poor thing! And I thought she was entirely wonderful. We were married on the 20th of September, 1982. Since then we've worked together twice--in *The Mousetrap* each time, in Scandinavia--and I directed both.

Q: *There is only one commercial--for Toyota--in your list of credits. I've read pro and con about actors doing commercials. What "requirements" do you [as an actor] need to do an ad? Also, do you have a favorite theatre in which you like to appear, and if so, why? -- Kay Dotson [Yorba Linda, California]*

A: In terms of what my requirements would be, quite simply the negotiations. If they offer you five pounds to do it, then you say no; if they offer you five million, you say yes! And somewhere in between you switch from one to the other. I have no deep-rooted objections whatsoever to doing advertisements, but the thing about an advertisement is that once your face is known, as mine is, you're doing it as yourself, and therefore there is an element of personal approbation implied, which means that I probably wouldn't do it if it was something I thought was appalling--but then I can't think of anything that would be allowed to be advertised that I would think was appalling! For instance, I wouldn't do cigarette advertising, but that isn't allowed on television anyway. There are some things I'd be delighted to do. I mean, I could say with absolute sincerity that my cats eat Whiskers cat food, because they do!

Probably the answer is that I don't really have a favourite theatre, but there is one place I'm always pleased to go back to because of times I've spent there, and that is the Theatre Royal in Lincoln. A friend of mine runs it and it's a pretty little Victorian theatre, quite small, which has always been associated, for me, with having a pleasant week. I know all the stage crew there--they've been there for years--and it's a very nice atmosphere. Another is the Theatre Royal in Bath--again because it's run by a friend, and because it has a nice feel to it.

Please keep sending us questions for Colin, so we can keep printing a Q&A column! If you would rather write to him directly, even though he may not be able to reply, here's his address: Box 216, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 3PA, U.K.

"COLIN BAKER INTERVIEW" BOOKLET AVAILABLE

British *Doctor Who* fan Michael Sibley conducted a lengthy interview with Colin last May during the *Corpse!* tour and has compiled a 32-page, 6"x8" booklet which includes a transcript of that interview plus quite a few b&w photos. The booklet, which is entitled *The Colin Baker Interview*, is nicely put together and contains some interesting material -- for instance, did you know that Colin first appeared on television at age 11? -- but in case that isn't reason enough to buy the booklet, all of the proceeds are being donated to The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths.

If you would like to receive a copy of this booklet via airmail, send $9 (payable in the form of cash or international money order -- no personal checks, please!) to: Michael Sibley, 18 Grenville Bay, Fleet Estate, Bilton, Hull, North Humberside HU11 4BZ, U.K. In addition, Colin has signed fifty 4"x6"copies of a color photo Michael took during the interview, and the next fifty people who order a copy of the booklet will also receive one of the autographed photos!

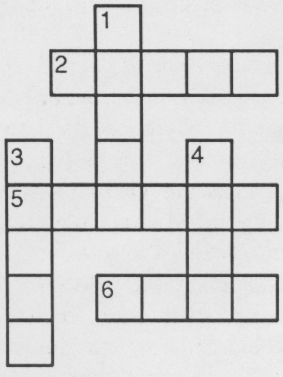
Not Only a Pretty Face, Indeed!

In case some of you aren't aware of it, British crosswords are quite different from ours--ours being quite straightforward and tame in comparison! In British crosswords, according to *The Sixth Penguin Book of Sunday Times Crosswords*, "reasonably ordinary words [are wrapped up] in clues which are ultimately seen to be fair by the solver, but which, until the moment of breakthrough, disguise the answer in the wittiest possible way." Included are "anagrams, sometimes avowed, sometimes cunningly disguised; ghastly puns; inversions; subtle divisions of words and phrases to suggest meanings different from their surface interpretation; bizarre allusions to history, geography, literature, music, sports and games."

The three *Crosswits* programs Colin taped on September 27th were aired toward the end of the year. *Crosswits* is played by two teams each consisting of a man and a woman, and one member of each team is a celebrity. Each *Crosswits* crossword is composed of six words, and the object is to fill in as much of the puzzle as ends up being necessary in order to guess the "key word," which relates in some way to each of the words in the crossword. A "clue word" is provided as a hint to the key word.

Crosswits crosswords must of course be relatively simple as British crosswords go, because of the short amount of time available in which to decipher them. Here's a fairly easy yet interesting example from one of the shows in which Colin appeared:

It was announced at the beginning of this game that it would be an anagram round; that is, the key word would be composed of some combination of the first letters of each of the words in the crossword. The clue word was "DOWNHILL."



1 down: The organ that never dies.

2 across: The vessel that blacks your eyes.

3 down: Stop at this light forever.

4 down: Is it a flat fish 'cause you tread on it?

5 across: We're vegetarian--it's in our bones.

6 across: Six balls and it's done. [To guess this one, it helps to know your cricket!]

See bottom of page for solution!

There was a bit of good-natured teasing during the programs, much of it aimed at Colin. During the introductions at the beginning of the first program, the show's host enthused about Colin's partner's claim to have solved one of the arduous *Times* crosswords in 30 minutes. Moving along to Colin he remarked, "Now that could be very useful, because I'm not terribly sure that your partner's all that good." As one might imagine, that comment elicited a rather surprised laugh from Colin; however, it certainly proved to have no basis in fact! As reported in our last issue, Colin's teams (he had a different partner during each of the three programs) won two games and lost one; however, they won the first and third games by large margins while they lost the second by a very small margin. Numerous times Colin amazed everyone by guessing the key word after only one or two of the answers to a crossword had been found, and such feats prompted the host and the other contestants to make remarks such as "He's a very clever boy!", "Brilliant!", and "Not only a pretty face, indeed!"

A particularly amusing incident occurred during the second program, when Colin's opponents correctly guessed that "WHO" was one of the words in the current crossword. Colin looked slightly embarrassed, and everyone chuckled a bit. It got worse, however, because Colin's opponents correctly guessed that the key word was "DOCTOR," and then everybody ***really*** laughed! When the camera panned back over to Colin, he'd pulled his sweater up over his face!

At the end of the program the team with the most points plays a "crossfire" round in which they have 60 seconds to complete a crossword consisting of ten words. If the crossfire round is successfully completed--and that apparently doesn't happen very often--the contestant wins a very nice vacation. Colin's last program ended with his team completing the crossfire round not only successfully but in very impressive form, with several seconds to spare. After the host congratulated Colin's partner on the vacation to Andalusia which she had just won, he added, "The bad news is that Colin can't go with you!" Colin's performance was really quite impressive and a good time appeared to have been had by all, so it's not surprising that Colin has been invited to tape four more *Crosswits* programs in April!

[*Solution: 1 liver, #2 liner, #3 amber, #4 sole, #5 marrow, #6 over. Key word: slalom.*]

EXCLUSIVE! SHOCKING VIOLATION OF CHILD LABOR LAWS!

It's not uncommon for a toddler to feel a bit left out after the arrival of a new brother or sister, and that's apparently what has happened to poor little Lucy Baker! After hearing a rumor that Lucy had run away from home, one of our roving reporters discovered her working as a mechanic at a Mercedes repair shop in a small village several miles from the family cottage. Three-year-old Lucy seems to be adjusting fairly well to her new life, and managed to put on a cheerful face for our photographer.

[Story and photo reprinted from *The International Enquirer*]

TWO TALL TALES ON TAPE!

We've previously mentioned two audio cassettes which Colin told us he had recorded. We've now heard both tapes, and are pleased to report that Colin has proven himself to be a delightful storyteller!

For *Spooky Stories from Troller's Ghyll* Colin created voices for 11 different trolls, an eight-year-old boy, Merlin, a sheep, a shopmistress...and last but hardly least the evil Barguest, an enormous dog which lives deep within an abandoned coal mine and emerges during each full moon to snatch baby trolls. When Colin received the scripts for these tapes he was given no suggestions as to what types of voices he should use; they're completely his own invention. In audio recordings it's of course the voices, more than the words themselves, which (hopefully) make the characters come to life, and Colin certainly accomplished that in this recording! After listening to it one expects at any moment to see a tiny troll dash into the room delightedly shouting, "We're going back to Norway, we're going back to Norway!"

Through the charming voices he created Colin even managed to make something special out of the old classic, *Pinocchio at the Puppet Theatre*. And there's a bonus to this tape: on the reverse side Peter Davison reads a story called *Gummi Bears: A New Beginning*!

We've arranged to place a *one-time* bulk order for each of these tapes via distributors in England. Including airmail postage from England and first class postage from us to you, the *Pinocchio* tapes will cost $8 each and the *Spooky Stories* tapes $10 each. If you would like to order either or both, send us a check/money order (payable to FTCB) by *April 30th*. We'll then tally the requests, obtain international money orders, and send off our orders. Barring unexpected delays, you should receive your tape(s) sometime in June.

OF PANTOMIMES AND PIRATES . . .

Unfortunately, most of the reviews of *Robinson Crusoe* have mentioned each of the actors only briefly, but here are a few comments we've found regarding Colin and the character he played:

"Colin Baker is very hissable as the pirate Bluebeard...though minus a beard of any description!"

"...Colin Baker's hilarious and, oddly, totally charming Bluebeard."

"Colin Baker plays a really dastardly pirate, Bluebeard. Hisssssss!"

One review contained a quote from Rula Lenska concerning the "nail-biting" sword fight between Robinson and Bluebeard near the end of the play: "That is quite a frightening scene for me. Although the swords are blunt, they can cause nasty injuries. I wacked Colin Baker on the bum a bit too hard once and gave him a line of bruises. He said to me: 'How am I going to explain that one to my wife, Rula?!'"

Thanks (we think!) to Colin for lending us the above photo of himself in the makeup he wore for the Frankenstein sketch he taped last July for *The Kenny Everett Show*. The sketch hasn't been aired yet.